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Energy Efficiency Championed

Terminal Operations and the Energy Management Steering Committee seek best-in-class levels.

See Page 3

Spill Drill Tests Readiness

Photo: **Ali Al-Ahsaei**

- With an oil spill exercise in effect, all eyes turn diligently toward screens monitoring the situation at the Northern Area Pipelines Department Emergency Center. Here (from right to left) Abdulrahman Al-Grainees, Abdullah Al-Najem, Abdulatif Abdulqader, Mohammad Al-Suhaimi and Kamran Hussain view the incoming pipeline data and log the events on the message board.

Cover Story

- **The main goal of the Oil Spill Response Team (OSRT) in any drill is to activate the Arabian Gulf Oil Spill Contingency Plan,** fully or partially, in order to mitigate the oil spill and to protect the environment, the adjacent facility and the shorelines.
- **Crews dealt with two simulated oil slicks stemming from an underwater pipeline leak** – one measuring 900 meters by 300 meters with 80 percent coverage, and another 1,300 meters by 400 meters with 90 percent coverage.
- **OSTR participates in 10 scheduled exercises of a varying nature each year,** although in 2012, the team conducted 15 drills.

See story on page 7

Saudi Aramco by the Numbers

968,275 kilograms

is the total combined weight of paper, cartons, plastic, glass and aluminum collected for recycling by Saudi Aramco in 2012.

Doing the Right Things Right

Designed to help employees make the right decisions when faced with potential dilemmas surrounding ethics, Saudi Aramco's Materials Supply organization has launched a code of conduct for its employees.

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Young Aramcon Authors Spy Book

For 11-year-old Henry Acevedo, publishing his first book, "The Super Secret Spy Agency," is simply the extension of his long-time favorite activity — writing.

... page 12

'Udhailiyah community projects highlighted

DAPHNE HOPE

'UDHAILIYAH — The executive director for Community Services, Hany Abu Khadra, recently visited 'Udhailiyah to see some of the major projects undertaken during the past year and to participate in the inauguration of the Men's Fitness Center, Carleton Lounge and Snack Bar.

He was joined on the tour of the newly renovated facilities by Omar Ghazi, manager for Southern Area/Central Region Community Services, and Mohammed Khamsan, administrator for the 'Udhailiyah Community Services Division (UCSD), along with UCSD unit heads.

First up on the tour was the Youth Center project, which is still a work in progress. There, Abu Khadra was given a presentation on the ongoing refurbishment and shown plans for the proposed final facility. Community volunteers and mothers described the core value of the center as an enhancement of family life, explaining that the support for families is the underpinning for productive employees and that projects such as the Youth Center are key to this concept.

Abu Khadra then visited the Safety House and the Quality Assurance and Orientation Center. The UCSD staff there explained the programs and outreach projects that are conducted.

He then performed his first official opening of the visit at the Men's Fitness Center. The facility has been extensively modified with new exterior cladding and a more clearly defined main entrance. Inside, the workout areas have been greatly expanded with an additional 100 square meters added to the cardio area and a new reception counter. New windows provide more natural light, while the shower, Jacuzzi and steam room have all been updated to provide a modern fitness complex for men.

The next inauguration was the Carleton Lounge (formerly Café Najjar). This facility has also been given a complete makeover inside and out with expanded seating capacity as well as new furniture and fittings.

The last ribbon-cutting event was held at the Jebel Complex Snack Bar. This facility underwent a thorough renovation with new ceiling, floors and lighting. The seating capacity was increased and the interior design updated to provide more of a restaurant experience.

Throughout the tour, Abu Khadra was welcomed by various members of the UCSD team including several women who are working as project engineers and designers. He said he was impressed by the team spirit as well as by the quality of workmanship and emphasis on safety, and he commended the UCSD on its efforts to provide a better quality of life for the community.

■ The recently updated Men's Fitness Center features a bevy of interior and exterior improvements.

After the inauguration of the various facilities, Abu Khadra attended a luncheon where 25-year or 30-year service awards were presented to 16 employees. He commended them on their outstanding dedication to Saudi Aramco and congratulated the UCSD on the excellent work that has been accomplished.

'Udhailiyah Community Services Department recognizes area contractors

DAPHNE HOPE

'UDHAILIYAH — Nearly 800 contractor employees work for the various units within 'Udhailiyah Community Services Division (UCSD).

These workers maintain the facilities, houses, yards and public areas within the 'Udhailiyah community. They work in housing, sanitation, gardening, maintenance and recreation, and provide a valuable service to the community and to the quality of life for residents and employees.

Once a year, UCSD management pays tribute to the efforts of these workers by hosting a recognition luncheon for them. The event was held Dec. 25 and 26 and was attended by CSD Southern Area/Central Region manager Omar Ghazi, UCSD administrator Mohammed Khamsan and various unit heads.

The recognition luncheon was held over two days to accommodate the number of workers employed by Rezayat, Sraco, Al-Bargash, Al-Sinan, Tamimi, Arabian Food Services and Samara companies. About 300 people attended each function.

The events began with a welcome by Khamsan who extended his thanks on behalf of the department for the dedicated work of the contractor employees in 2012, a year of "excellent achievements." He noted that the theme for the year was "From Good to Great" and predicted that 2013 would be even better in terms of accomplishments and safety.

Khamsan then introduced Ghazi, who commented that staff and management meet every year to reconfirm their commitment to the company and to acknowledge the work of these employees who bring life to the community through their efforts. He commented that, "As a team, we make a commitment to deliver quality services wherever we go."

There was a cheer when he confirmed that 'Udhailiyah community was No. 1 in the SA/CR portfolio and noted that he had seen only improvement from year to year. Reminding everyone to put a special emphasis on safety, he wished the group all the best for 2013.

■ Omar Ghazi speaks during the recent contractor appreciation luncheon held in 'Udhailiyah.

Your Voice

The pitfalls of stereotyping

It was after dark, and Sami and his good friend Yousef were going for a stroll on a clear winter's night. As they walked, they noticed an animal farther away sitting on a wall of a neighbors date farm. Sami thought it looked like a small cat, but Yousef thought it was a parrot. They made a friendly challenge between themselves that whoever was right would buy the cups of tea that night.

The two men agreed to figure out who was right by throwing a stone in the animal's direction. Upon hearing the stone hitting the wall, the animal would either run away, proving it was a cat, or it would fly away, proving it was a bird.

So, Sami picked up a pebble from the ground and threw it toward the fence where the sound of the stone hitting the wall made the animal rise into the air and fly away. Yousef was right; it was a bird. He turned to Sami with a smile, ready to claim his success, when Sami said: "You know, my dear friend, that's the first time in my life I've ever seen a cat fly."

Jerry Silmon
Dhahran
Jerry.silmon@aramco.com

There's a lesson in this story about the way we view the world, the objects within it and the people who inhabit it. What one person sees as a cat, another sees as a bird. What one person sees as ethical, another sees as immoral. What one person thinks is easy, another thinks is difficult.

And so it is with Baby Boomers in the workplace. Lately, it seems as though the trend in some organizations has shifted from how to engage Generation Y to how to manage Baby Boomers. But an accurate perception of what a Boomer is can be very hard to pin down.

According to a review of generational research conducted at Southern Cross University in Australia, Baby Boomers are supposed to be loyal and hard-working employees who prefer a stable work environment. They want to be given directions by their boss and to work in teams. They are motivated by money and recognition but dislike change and technology.

But you probably know many Baby Boomers who don't fit that description. Frequently they are more like the stereotypical description of Gen Ys who, according to the University of South Carolina, are social, digital, ambitious and crave influence and personal development. Also, they want meaningful jobs, a work/life balance and flexibility.

So, if Boomers can be just like Gen Ys, and Gen Ys can be just like Baby Boomers, one of the riskiest things supervisors can do is to manage by generation because you might end up relying on the incorrect stereotype. That's why you should:

■ Forget what motivates each generation; focus instead on what motivates each individual.

■ Forget what each generation expects; focus instead on what each individual expects.

■ Forget each generation's characteristics; focus instead on each individual's characteristics.

Because, sometimes, what looks like a bird might actually be a cat that flies.

Your Voice reflects the thoughts and opinions of the writer and not necessarily those of the publication.

Photos: **Ali Al-Ahsaei**

■ Participants and organizers in the recent 2013 Energy Conservation Forum held Jan. 15 and 16 in Dhahran pose for a photo with Mohammed Al-Omair, center.

Forum addresses energy efficiency

AREF YOUNIS

DHAHRAN — "Achieving energy efficiency is a strategic goal for Saudi Aramco as well as everyone in the oil and gas industries as it reduces the pressure on the already strained resources on a global scale," said Mohammed A. Al-Omair, vice president of Pipeline Distribution and Terminals.

In partnership between the Energy Management Steering Committee and Terminal Operations Department (TOD), the 2013 Energy Conservation Forum (ECF 2013) took place Jan. 15 and 16 under the theme "Achieving Best-in-Class Energy Efficiency Level."

Saleh A. Al-Qahtani, from the Process and Control Systems Department (P&CSD), welcomed the attendees, presenters, and exhibitors, and then he presented a brief overview of the program structure.

In his opening remarks, Al-Omair indicated that the rise in energy prices is causing consumers to pay greater attention to energy efficiency, which is highly desirable. It is also attracting higher levels of investment in new and alternative energy sources.

In parallel, the impact of deregulation — in particular in the field of power generation — is expected to lead to a more efficient use of hydrocarbon fuels and, eventually, to lower the level of energy intensity.

Al-Omair noted that in past years, the national demand on energy has increased drastically to the point where the portion meant for export may decline to very low levels in the coming two decades. For example, the national demand for electricity increased by about 7 to 8 percent annually for the past five years. Therefore, being efficient in energy utilization is a national goal and concern, and it is the responsibility of everyone.

He added that Saudi Aramco has been well aware of the importance of energy efficiency through cost-effective and efficient resource management practices. Therefore, the company launched energy conservation policies to improve levels of energy efficiency in all operating facilities, whether they are industrial or nonindustrial, to support energy efficiency efforts in the Kingdom.

In line with the Accelerated Transformation Program, the Kingdom's Energy Strategy team has been working on E2K efforts toward energy conservation. The team has focused on how to decrease the energy intensity compared to world trends while ensuring continuous economic prosperity. Efficiency, renewable energies (solar energy in particular) and hydrocarbon allocation strategies are major contributors that are expected to manage the growing domestic energy demand in the mid- and long-term.

Ahmed O. Al-Khowaiter, chief engineer and chairman of the Energy Management Steering Committee, gave the keynote address emphasizing the importance of leading, implementing and achieving best-in-class energy efficiency levels for Saudi Aramco's operation and the Kingdom.

> **"We need to identify actionable programs that can be applied to reduce energy consumption in our everyday life practices in and around the company."**
>
> **— Ahmed O. Al-Khowaiter**

"We need to identify actionable programs that can be applied to reduce energy consumption in our everyday life practices in and around the company. We must export these concepts in collaboration with the National Energy Efficiency Initiative focusing on three areas: industry, production and transportation," he said.

Al-Omair and Al-Khowaiter then opened the associated exhibition that included 12 exhibitor booths dedicated to energy conservation solutions. Jaman S. Al-Zahrani from TOD led the exhibition opening tour and introduced the participating vendors. Two sample houses were also exhibited near the auditorium entrance, one representing an energy efficient house and the other one an inefficient standard house, to raise awareness about residential energy conservation effects.

The event continued with a rich program including 18 presentations covering major energy conservation issues.

According to the coordination team, which was composed of Ali H. Al-Qahtani, Saleh A. Al-Qahtani, Dr. Refaat Mahfoudhi and Mohammad S. Al-Ghamdi, all of P&CSD, and Khalid M. Al-Zahrani, Tariq A. Al-Amer, Jaman S. Al-Zahrani and Khaled H. Al-Shareedah, all of TOD, the two-day forum was structured into three tracks: industrial energy conservation, nonindustrial energy conservation and renewable energies.

The topics were divided into four basic sessions with presentations carefully selected to reflect Saudi Aramco energy conservation activities and lessons learned from various plants and departments. Presenters also included local and five major international energy companies. Fundamental research and development in the field of renewables was included through the participation of King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM). Major national companies were represented by SABIC, with a presentation highlighting its energy conservation program and initiatives.

The first day of the event offered an industrial session covering topics such as "Achieving Efficiency in Your Downstream Operations: Lean and Green Refining" by Allan Rudman (KBC), "Energy Performance Management" by Stephen Wright (vice president, Solomon Associates); "Cost-Effective Heat Exchange Network Retrofit: Method and Case Studies" by Dr. Ahmed Aseeri (Gap-Tech); "Real Time Energy Management Systems for Petrochemical Refinery Sites" by Sebastian Cuneo (Soteica); "Integrated Approach for Energy Efficiency at SABIC" by Dr. Abdullah Al-Qahtani; and "Enhanced Oil Refining Distillation Plants' Energy Efficiency and GHG Emissions through HEN Advanced Retrofit Approach" by Abdulaziz Najjar (P&CSD).

The first day also offered nonindustrial sessions on issues such as: "New Saudi Arabian Climate" by Ayman Youssef (P&CSD); "Green Building and LEED Methodology" by Motasam Manzoor (Utilities Department); and "Building Management System" by Ali Al-Yami (Community Services Department).

Saleh Al-Qahtani of P&CSD stressed that the second day of the forum focused on renewable energy, as well as the industrial application of energy efficiency and conservation. Among the topics covered included: "KFUPM Education and Research Experience in Renewable Energy" by Dr. Haitham Ba-Haidarah; "System Level Design and Simulation of PV/Diesel /Hybrid Power Systems for Portable Classrooms" by Abdulaziz Al-Hamoud (Shaybah Producing Department); and "Solar Air-Conditioning" by Vangelis lamaris (Gulf Power Marine).

The last session involved industrial applications and included: "Optimum Operation of Complex Combined Heat and Power Systems of Parallel Gas Facilities" by Mana Owiadh (P&CSD); "Closed Loop Real-Time Utility Plant Control" by Pekka Immonen (Emerson); "Utilizing Boilers Spare Capacity for Power Peak Shaving" by Dr. Fahd Al-Khaldi (FPD Department); "Kh.P. Department Integral Analytical Engineering Dashboard for Facilitating Operational Excellence Initiatives" by Dr. Kamarul Amminudine (Khurais Producing Department); "Riyadh Refinery Rotating Equipment Energy Saving Program" by Abdulmajeed Shaye (Riyadh Refinery); and "R&NGLF Power and Energy Optimization Assessment" by Khalid Hmili (JNGL)."

Closing remarks were given jointly by Hussain A. Al-Qahtani, P&CSD manager, and Walid S. Al-Kulaibi, TOD manager. They greeted the presenters, attendees and exhibitors, noting that the audience had exceeded 250 attendees as a result of successful planning and dedicated organizing team formed from the P&CSD and TOD departments.

The event concluded with a recognition ceremony for exhibitors, presenters and organizers.

■ Mohammed Al-Omair

■ Ahmed O. Al-Khowaiter

■ Saleh A. Al-Qahtani

OPEC Basket Weekly Price trend for the past five weeks:

Friday, December 28, 2012 — **$107.18**
Friday, January 4, 2013 — **$108.62**
Friday, January 11, 2013 — **$108.80**
Friday, January 18, 2012 — **$108.01**
Friday, January 25, 2012 — **$109.60**

ارامكو السعودية
Saudi Aramco

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Over 50 Years of Excellence

Recipients of 35 Years of Service awards pose with members of their families and management during a recent event sponsored by Industrial Relations.

Service, safety celebrated in Abqaiq

AREF YOUNIS

ABQAIQ — An Industrial Relations 35 Years of Service and Safety Award ceremony was hosted by the Abqaiq Industrial Security Operations recently in Abqaiq.

Abdulaziz F. Al-Khayyal, senior vice president of Industrial Relations, inaugurated the event. He was accompanied by Mohammed Al-Zahrani, vice president of Safety and Industrial Security; Hani Abu Khadra, executive director of Community Services; Huda Al-Ghoson, executive director of Employee Relations and Training and Mohammed Al-Shammari, general manager of Industrial Security Operations.

Also attending the event were Turki Al-Turki, manager of Abqaiq Area Industrial Security Operations; Ali Al-Mukhtar, manager of the Fire Protection Department; Omar Ghazi, manager for Southern Area/Central Region Community Services; as well as superintendents from the region's industrial security and community services operations.

Opening remarks were given by Al-Zahrani, who with the array of executive management presented the awards to employees from support departments in the areas of Community Services, Office Services, Fire Protection and Industrial Security. More than 29 employees, nine of whom were recognized for their records of being without any traffic violations over a period of 35 years of driving coupled with the fact that they have been with the company for many years, were recognized at the event. Each of the other 20 employees maintained stellar safety records for which they were recognized.

Among those recognized at the event were as follows:

35 year award winners included Saad Dawsari, Saad Ateesh, Abdallatif Fedhal, Fuhaid Hajri, Saeed Hajri, Ali Mubarak, Saud Muffarej, Saad Muzail, Muhammad Owais, Hamad Raihaman, Khalid Saeed, Mutlaq Subaey and Karukappadath Ziauddin.

Safety award recipients included Mohammad R. Al-Abdouh, Mahmood A. Al-Essa, Ali S. Al-Mubarak, Saad Y. Al-Muzail, Saud R. Al-Nahayan, Khalid K. Al-Saeed, Mutlaq A. Al-Subaey and Abdulrahman S. Umar Al-Subaiey.

High achiever employees included Abdullah B. Aldossary, Abduallah S. Al-Enezi, Mohanad A. Al-Enazi, Hashem K. Alhamed, Mohammed S. Al-Jasir, Khalid A. Alsaleh, Waleed M. Alshaiee, Rami F. Shodari and Saad M. Alzidan.

High achiever Abqaiq ITC apprentices included Mohammad A. Al-Ada, Murtada A. Al-Alwan, Muhammad M. Buhassan, Mohamed A. Al-Dearfry, Hossam H. Al-Ghamdi, Firas Y. Al-Hussein, Niganned A. Al-Ismail, Ahmed Y. Al-Jassim, Husain M. Al-Kwaiti, Mubarak A. Al-Madhi, Ali M. Al-Marri, Manssor A. Al-Owais, Mustafa A. Al-Saffar, Jaber H. Al-Shaiban and Nasser M. Al-Thiban.

EXPEC ARC recognizes three long-serving retirees

DHAHRAN — The EXPEC Advanced Research Center gathered for a farewell luncheon to celebrate the long-term careers of three of its employees on Dec. 30 in ad-Diwan.

Mohammed Hasan Al-Kilani, who worked with Saudi Aramco for 33 years, graduated as a chemical engineer from King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) in 1979 and joined Saudi Aramco as process engineer with the Consulting Services Department. He later obtained an MBA degree from the University of Hull through distance learning.

In 1981, Al-Kilani became a corrosion engineer and later joined what is known today as the Drilling Fluids and Cement Unit as a drilling fluids professional. In 2008, he become a senior petroleum engineering consultant with EXPEC ARC overseeing activities related to drilling fluids design and applications, quality assurance of mud chemical, product evaluation for new mud products, and field monitoring and troubleshooting of drilling fluids. Al-Kilani conducted Drilling Fluids Technology Schools for more than 20 years from where hundreds of engineers from PE&D organizations graduated.

Mohammad Shammari's career spanned almost 32 years. He joined Saudi Aramco in 1981 as a trainee, learning the skills of instrument repairman, a maintenance electrician and an administrative clerk. Before joining EXPEC ARC, he worked as an admin clerk, maintenance planner and planning and material controlman at Abqaiq Plant. He later worked in Safaniyah and Ju'aymah in Maintenance Materials Coordination. Shammari came to work at EXPEC ARC on Nov. 1, 2007, as a Materials Technician before he was promoted in 2009 to Materials Advisor II. His hard work and dedication, as well as his eternal positive attitude, earned him the 2011 Team Player Award.

Nayef Mohammed Al-Khaldi, who worked for 28 years with the company, received his Administration Diploma from Dammam Administration Institute and joined Saudi Aramco in 1984 with the R&D Center Chemistry Unit. In 1996, he became a lab technician of what is today the EXPEC ARC Petrophysics Unit, working with conventional core analysis where he was responsible for porosity and permeability measurements, digitizing numerous core analysis reports and recording their values in the company database. Al-Khaldi was involved in several petrophysical studies designed to generate core data for reservoir simulation. He also commissioned and modified core analysis equipment. Al-Khaldi trained many young Saudis and always extended help to his colleagues.

"I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the years of dedication and experience that these employees have given to EXPEC ARC and the company," said Samer AlAshgar, manager of EXPEC ARC. "Their combined gifts of wisdom, fairness and control have inspired us."

Photo: **Moayed Al-Qattan**

Receiving recognitions for their years of long service are, from left, Mohammed Al-Shammari, Nayef Al-Khaldi and Mohammed Al-Kilani.

Technology makes for cleaner fracking

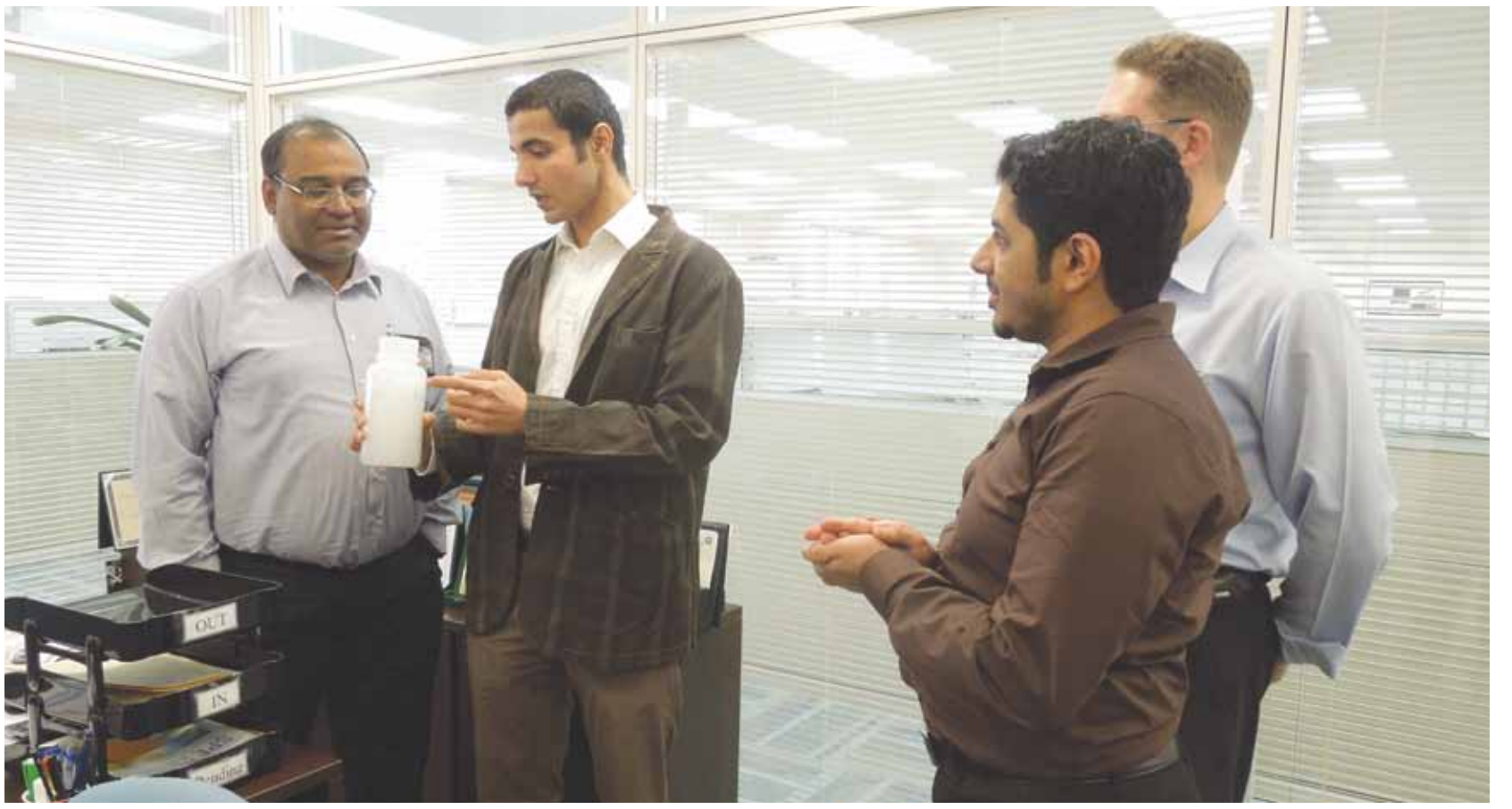
With the increasing demand for natural gas, Saudi Aramco is exploring new methods for using fracturing fluid technology to get the maximum amount of natural gas out of the ground with minimum ecological impact. The recent development of environmentally friendly polymer-free fracturing fluids — with superior operational performance — represents a major technological advance in the petroleum industry and an opportunity for the company.

Fracturing is a technique that uses liquids at high pressure to break open channels in underground rock formations where natural gas is trapped. While conventional fracturing fluids occasionally penetrate beyond their targets, polymer-free fluids have proven to be easier to control and have less environmental damage.

The new technology couldn't come at a better time. To meet Saudi Arabia's growing demand for energy to generate electricity, the Kingdom is developing domestic sources of natural gas as well as solar. Natural gas is the preferred fuel for power generation and water desalination due to its increased efficiency and because natural gas offers cleaner burning as it emits less carbon in comparison to other fossil resources.

The question is how to get the gas out of the ground. Natural gas that is found in oil fields — often called associated gas — presents certain challenges. But nonassociated gas often exists in "tight" rock formations that require special techniques to release it.

"The best technique found so far is fracturing, also known as fracking, and Saudi Aramco's constant focus on environmental stewardship has led it to push for new and better ways to conduct fracturing operations with the least environmental impact possible," said Saad Al-Driweesh, GGPED general supervisor.



Saad Al-Driweesh, left, discusses potential further improvements for environment friendly, polymer-free fracturing fluid applications with GGPED employees, second from left to right, Mohammed Alghazal, Mustafa Al-Zaid and Dmitrii Gromakovaskii.

> **"Saudi Aramco's constant focus on environmental stewardship has led it to push for new and better ways to conduct fracturing operations with the least environmental impact possible."**
>
> **— Saad Al-Driweesh**

At present, the company uses two main hydraulic fracturing techniques: acid fracturing for carbonate formations and proppant (small sand particles) fracturing for sandstone formations.

In the proppant fracturing technique, a mixture of viscous fluid and small sand particles are pumped at pressures that are higher than the formation fracture pressure. The fluids create the fractures, and proppants, or sand particles, keep the fractures open. The fracturing fluid should have two main characteristics to make the most of the fracturing operation. First, the fluid should be thick and viscous enough to carry and place the proppant into the created fracture. Second, it should break back into a lighter, runnier fluid after the fracturing operation, promoting better and faster fluid flowback and fracture cleanup time.

After numerous successful tests, the company is improving its proppant fracturing technique by using environmentally friendly polymer-free fluids that achieve similar results with less environmental impact.

"Unlike polymer-based fracturing fluids, polymer-free fracturing fluids break down more readily after the fracturing operation, promoting better and faster fluid flow back and fracture cleanup time," said Al-Driweesh.

"In the test trials in Saudi Arabia, polymer-free fracturing fluids effectively suspended and transported 61,000 pounds of proppant into the target formation," said Mohammed Alghazal, a production engineer at GGPED. "The fluid offers excellent proppant suspension and transport."

"The viscoelasticity nature of the polymer-free fracturing fluid enables far better control of fracture geometry (longer fractures with better height containment). This is a critical advantage in fracturing hydrocarbon zones in close proximity to water-bearing zones," he added.

"There is much still to be learned about environmentally friendly polymer-free fluid in terms of its effect on rock formations and whether the fracturing fluids would be compatible with other additives used in the field," said Al-Driweesh.

Workshops capitalize on local talent for Jazan mega-project

Results show Jazan a valuable source of manpower

EAMONN HOUSTON

JAZAN — A targeted recruitment program for Saudi nationals to develop local employment for Saudi Aramco's next mega-project is already making large strides.

Jazan Refinery and Terminal Project (JRTP) recently inked contracts between Saudi Aramco and seven contractors, who will start construction on the refinery next year.

In tandem, an energetic recruitment program overseen by Saudi Aramco Project Management (SAPM) has ignited sizeable interest among locals for the job opportunities offered by JRTP.

When completed in late 2016, JRTP will process 400,000 bpd of Arabian Heavy and Arabian Medium crude oil. It will also produce 80,000 of gasoline, 250,000 of ultra-low sulfur diesel and over 1 million tons per year of benzene and paraxylene products.

A series of workshops are being held both in-Kingdom and out-of-Kingdom and are set to continue throughout 2013. Jazan was one of the recruitment areas explored for the first time.

The recruitment program will be coordinated across the world and will involve more than 10 contractors working across different time zones.

In keeping with the vision of King Abdullah, who launched the Jazan Economic City Project as part of a strategy to revitalize the region's economic activity and serve domestic energy demands, there are ambitious Saudization targets for each of the project's contract packages. All construction contracts have mandatory Saudization provisions varying from 10 percent to 25 percent of the total workforce.

At the peak phase of the refinery construction, the Saudi workforce could exceed 4,000 employees hired by the construction contractors. Saudization is also a Saudi Aramco core corporate strategy for the development of local content.

One recruitment workshop in Jazan resulted in the hiring of 100 Saudis who had no previous exposure to Saudi Aramco policies and procedures. Many efforts went into the planning of the Jazan workshop, including the review of more than 300 resumes, short listing candidates and interviewing them.

Management says the challenge ahead is to familiarize these new recruits with Saudi Aramco's Project Management concepts and execution procedures. This will require coordinated efforts from the project team alongside participation from major stakeholders such as Engineering Services and the subject matter experts from the Project Management Office Department. On-the-job development will continue in time for the start of initial construction on the site.

The workshop results show that Jazan is a valuable source of manpower, and the recruitment team will be making repeat visits to the area.

Those working on the project say that the Jazan project team will continue the tradition of Saudi Aramco delivering world-class mega-projects, not only safely and on time but with a significant contribution from local talent.

Munir M. Rafie launches the Materials Supply code of conduct for employees under the slogan "Doing the Right Things Right."

Photo: **Mohammed Al-Shaikh**

Materials Supply launches employees code of conduct

EAMONN HOUSTON

DHAHRAN — Saudi Aramco's Materials Supply organization has launched a code of conduct for its employees under the slogan "Doing the Right Things Right." It is designed to help employees make the right decisions when faced with potential dilemmas surrounding ethics.

Launched by Munir M. Rafie, vice president of Materials Supply, the code explores in detail what Saudi Aramco regards as potential ethical pitfalls for its employees. It was unveiled before Materials Supply management and employees at an event in the Plaza Conference Center and will be followed by similar events throughout the Kingdom.

The campaign has its roots in initial Town Hall meetings two years ago and is part of a combined effort by Materials Supply, Management Services and Internal Auditing.

In August 2010, employees were surveyed on their perceptions of ethical behavior, and a 70 percent response resulted in the convening of employee focus groups. Two key recommendations followed:

1) Develop a code for company suppliers to clearly articulate Saudi Aramco's values of ethics and integrity.

2) Develop an ethics guide for all supply chain stakeholders within Saudi Aramco.

At events in 2011 and 2012, Materials Supply launched the Supplier Code of Conduct, providing an ethical code of practice that all Saudi Aramco suppliers are required to acknowledge and apply.

In this second phase, Materials Supply launched the "supply chain" code for company employees, addressing ethical issues related to interactions with suppliers of materials and services. The code, which is available in English and Arabic, will be rolled out to all employees across the company who hold responsibility for materials and services requisition, procurement and contract administration.

In his opening remarks, Rafie said: "The code is designed to improve our understanding and outlook and deepen our awareness of our ethical responsibilities. We now have a strong base for knowing what is right and what is wrong."

He added that the code existed to "guide us, to arm us and to protect us from the consequences of unethical behavior."

"Materials Supply is the process owner for the supply chain; we are accountable for its performance and integrity. We have already addressed the external environment through the Supplier Code of Conduct, and today, we complete the circle by addressing stakeholders within Saudi Aramco.

"We are leading the way, and our customers will follow. Through this, we will spread the culture of ethics and integrity throughout the company. The code is our guide, and it applies uniformly and fairly; it raises standards and sets an example to our suppliers," Rafie told the audience. "It shows suppliers that we require from our own personnel the same high standards of conduct that we demand of them, and it re-emphasizes the assurance that Saudi Aramco is a highly ethical enterprise."

Business sized cards were distributed to the audience presenting four questions for "Ethical Clarity": "Is it the truth? Is it fair to all? Is it free from harm? Am I proud to do it?"

The card describes the questions as pertinent when faced with "a moment of truth. … Our choices today determine who we will be tomorrow."

A video was shown that dramatized a number of scenarios where actor employees in a variety of roles are faced with ethical dilemmas in their jobs under pressure from others.

The Code of Conduct booklet outlines in detail situations that could result in conflicts of interest and examines proper conduct with suppliers and government officials, alongside procedures for internal and external communications. What is acceptable as a gift from suppliers was also identified as anything to the value or under the value of a business meal.

Employees across Saudi Aramco's departments and organizations will be able to participate in an e-Learning course designed to enhance recognition of conflicts of interest and how to avoid them. Completion of the e-Learning will be mandatory for those employees requesting authorization to access supply chain systems such as SAP Materials Management (MM) and the Electronic Contracting Network (ECN).

In his closing remarks, Abdullah M. Warthan, manager of Projects and Strategic Purchasing, told the audience: "We are working in one of the greatest companies in the world, if not the greatest. Ethics has a direct impact on the bottom line of the company, and they apply to all employees. It is to protect you as a citizen of the company."

Warthan added that Saudi Aramco employees are required to "walk the talk" and that the culture and environment of the company must be pinned to ethical values.

"We have succeeded for the past 80 years because of the people here, and we are well disciplined. The code is to keep you protected. I want to assure you that it is not a reaction, but to assure you that we are a solid organization," Warthan said.

Saudi Aramco would stand as an example to contractors and external companies because of its focus on ethical business dealings, he added.

Retirees and service award winners pose for a photo with management during a recent ceremony in Dhahran.

Corporate Applications Department recognizes retirees, long service

DHAHRAN — The Corporate Applications Department (CAD) of Information Technology (IT) has recently said goodbye to three retiring employees who completed a combined total of 88 years of service. The event was attended by manager Adel S. Al-Doulab, CAD division heads, supervisors and the recognized employees, their family members and a number of other CAD employees. The departing employees were praised for their years of work and their achievements were highlighted. Trophies were handed to each employee by Al-Doulab. The retirees were Seena S. Al-Omran, Mohammad A. Al-Arfaj and Al'aa Al-Thawadi.

At the same event, 36 CAD employees were given Service Award trophies for completing five, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service with Saudi Aramco during 2012. Recognized were: Anwar Ismail (five years); Amjaad Allbad (five years); Abeer AlShammari (five years); Fawad Hassar (five years); Saad Gumaizi (10 years); Mohammad Jamed (15 years); Thomas Saleh (10 years); Abdllah Dahlawi(15 years); Asma Otaibi (five years); Sara Mansour (10 years); Saeed Dobas (15 years); Sultan Shareef (15 years); Abdulhakeem Habib (15 years); Mustafa Wabari (15 years); Ameer Shammasi (25 years); Fahad Gabgab (30 years); Manal Hawas (5 years); Nasid Dawd (10 years); Hassam Ben-Seddeeq (10 years); Mohammad Al-Ali (10 years); Mohammad Logmani (10 years); Adel Otaibi (15 years); Alaa Thawadi (30 years); Ali Hanfoosh (30 years); Mostafa Abou-Ghanem (10 years); Peter O'Regan (10 years); Bassam Humaidan (10 years); Faisal Mankabou (10 years); Faisal Hammad (10 years); Mohammed Mutairi (20 years); Ali Mutlaq (30 years); Mohammad Faizal Cheruveedu (10 years); David Hurdle (15 years); Eid Al-Malki (15 years); Fahad Shunaibar (five years); and Hani Tawfiq (five years).

In his closing remarks, Al-Doulab thanked the retirees and service award recipients for their efforts, commitments and dedication. He also mentioned the CAD's excellent safety record during 2012 and said he looked forward to efforts during 2013 and the coming years toward making safety and data security a part of the department's business culture DNA.

NAPD tackles difficult spill drill

About 400 meters of boom were deployed from Ain Dar 3 to contain the smaller of two oil slicks in the spill exercise, accounting for the recovery of 69 barrels of Arabian Light crude oil.

Photo: **Ali Al-Ahsaei**

JEFF McCOSHEN

DHAHRAN — At 8:08 a.m. on Jan. 14, Saudi Aramco's Industrial Security receives a call from the Saudi Arabian Coast Guard about an oil leak offshore at Kilometer-26 in the Arabian Gulf between al-Khobar and Bahrain.

It is only a drill. The faux leak is only a simulation, but the response to the call is by the book.

The Northern Area Pipelines Department (NAPD) Emergency Response Plan is activated immediately, and a request is made by the incident manager, Faisal Al-Muaigel, (NAPD manager), for the Dhahran pump station to isolate the 12-inch crude pipeline in that area. Once Oil Supply Planning and Scheduling (OSPAS) has determined through a check that there is no particular reason for a pressure fluctuation, such as shifting tanks, the leak is confirmed.

The isolated pipeline is a key player in the supply of oil in the Gulf, and Abqaiq is asked to reduce the pressure on the pipeline. The incident commander, Usama Al-Mansouri, (NAPD&QD superintendent) is notified, and the Oil Spill Response Team will now be put to the test.

Action from this point on will be swift but measured to take the appropriate measures needed to identify the nature of the spill, the cause of the leak and, of course, to rectify the problem.

Because this is an oil spill exercise, participants from the many departments involved have the luxury of knowing that they are dealing with a medium-sized spill that will release about 200 barrels (bbl) of Arabian Light crude oil into the sea. With the pipeline itself containing a significantly more oil, the potential for a major disaster in a real-life scenario is obvious. That is why everybody associated with the spill exercise has been told to treat it as if it is a real incident, and every detail about the day's activities is documented accordingly.

Surveillance conducted by two marine engineers brought in by helicopter from Ras Tanura reveals that this particular simulated spill has created two oil slicks — the first approximately 900 meters by 300 meters with 80 percent coverage, and the second 1,300 by 400 meters with 90 percent coverage. The pollution control unit foreman has called for the fast response pollution control boat, Ain Dar 3, to be activated, and Zamil-25 marine services has also been called in from Ras Tanura to conduct the required underwater repair work. Already, a request has been put in to Government Affairs to issue a work permit for Diving Services to identify the exact leak location.

Ain Dar 3 deploys more than 400 meters of booms to contain the smaller of the two slicks, accounting for the recovery of 69 bbl, while the second slick of 113 bbl is to be sprayed by air tractor with a chemical dispersant that causes the oil to break down, although water is used for today's event.

> "A successful exercise in these weather conditions and with the location criteria makes us confident in our response team and its readiness for any spill of the same nature."
>
> — Khalid D. Al-Harbi

In the control room of the Emergency Center, left to right, Abdullah S. Al-Najem, Faisal A. Al-Muaigel, Khalid M. Al-Dossary, Global Oil Spill Response director, and Khalid D. Al-Harbi follow updates as the oil spill exercise is conducted.

At 1:42 p.m., it is confirmed that the leak pinhole has been plugged by divers with Zamil-25; the spill is deemed under control and Aviation is asked to re-survey the area. At 1:53 p.m., the pollution engineer reports to the incident manager that the area is clear, and that information is relayed to the Dhahran Security Control Center, which then announces that the drill is over.

At a critique the day after the exercise, participants were asked to assess the drill, highlighting areas where performance was satisfactory and perhaps determining areas that might be improved.

Al-Muaigel, acting as both the incident manager and serving in his customary role as NAPD manager, reported that the drill "went pretty much as planned," with some of the key areas including the response from government agencies, the response from the various departments and the cooperation with their counterparts meeting expectations.

Khalid D. Al-Harbi, Regional Oil Response coordinator for the Arabian Gulf, was pleased with the response of the Oil Spill Response Team (OSRT), whose goal he said "is to activate the Arabian Gulf Oil Spill Contingency Plan, fully or partially, to mitigate the oil spill and to protect the environment and the adjacent facility and the shorelines."

The exercise, he said, presented a unique challenge in that they were responding to a marine oil spill in a shallow area, close to a highly populated area (al-Khobar).

"This exercise was very challenging, especially because we were simulating real response time in very rough weather, with wind speeds gusting up to 28 knots with a high swell," noted Al-Harbi. "A successful exercise in these weather conditions and with the location criteria makes us confident in our response team and its readiness for any spill of the same nature."

One modification that will be made for similar spills in the future concerns the more than 400 meters of protective booms deployed to contain the smaller slick.

"One of the difficulties encountered was maintaining the boom configuration in a high-speed current of 5 knots, and this will be improved by replacing the boom-holding anchor with a small-sized boat," said Al-Harbi, whose team welcomes the opportunity to fine-tune its response performance with every drill.

OSTR participates in 10 scheduled exercises of a varying nature each year, although Al-Harbi noted that in 2012, the team conducted 15 drills, including a few that were unannounced "to help ensure complete readiness and response from all participating parties."

Abdulla Saleh Al-Najem, weekend superintendent with NAPD who was one of the key organizers of the exercise, indicated that "overall, the oil spill drill was effectively implemented successfully from all government agencies and other departments."

Workshop focuses on Intelligent Fields

JU'AYMAH — The first Northern Area Oil Operations (NAOO) Intelligent Field knowledge sharing and technology workshop was held recently.

The event was held in collaboration with the Society of Petroleum Engineers' (SPE) Saudi Arabia Section and was sponsored by the Northern Area Production Engineering and Well Services Department (NAPE&WSD). More than 80 industry leaders and professionals from Saudi Aramco and service providers used the workshop to exchange experiences and best practices associated with the adoption of smart oil field technologies.

According to NAPE&WSD manager, Naji Umair, "The workshop is part of NAOO's continuous efforts to unlock the full potential of Intelligent Field technology and maximize its benefits." He added that "the potential impact of Intelligent Field technology on improving safety and cost efficiency is substantial, especially in offshore and remote fields where accessibility and geographic remoteness is challenging in conventional data acquisition operations."

The deployment of Intelligent Field technology is part of a long-term strategy to collect and use real-time wells and surface equipment data to make timely optimized production and reservoir management decisions. Intelligent Field technology is becoming essential for ensuring enhanced oil and gas recovery and reducing operating costs, especially with the current expansion of Saudi Aramco exploration and development activities.

A group of workshop organizers, NAOO Management, speakers and attendees pose for a photo at the SPE Intelligent Field Technology Workshop in Ju'aymah.

The workshop paved the way to further enhance operational excellence through informative demonstrations of innovative intelligent field workflows, instrumentation and applications. It included several other technical presentations. According to Tofig Dhubaib, Upstream Continuing Excellence senior Petroleum Engineering consultant, "Saudi Aramco now has 21 intelligent enabled fields generating 7 gigabytes of real-time data daily, supported by a suite of systems and workflow applications. These applications validate, integrate data, and identify any reservoir management, production operations, and health and safety anomalies, and provide in-time alerts to facilitate and drive best practices."

The vendors contributed to the success of the workshop through their presentations, participation in the round-table discussions and showcasing their new technologies.

The workshop concluded with closing remarks delivered by Faisal Al-Khelaiwi, the I-Field Unit supervisor at NAPE&WSD, highlighting the value of such corporate and vendor interaction in improving the efficiency of Saudi Aramco field operations and encouraging more collaboration with the SPE to arrange similar events.

Mohammed Al-Khamis, NAPE&WSD general supervisor, acknowledged the work carried out by the organizers, including event chairman Abdulaziz A. Anizi, the presenters and the Saudi Arabian Section of the SPE, as well as NAOO management, for their contributions in making this first SPE I-Field Technology Workshop to be held in Saudi Arabia a success.

New RT ceremony recognizes many accomplishments

RAS TANURA — Motivating teams by focusing on what truly matters, a critical Accelerated Transformation Program behavior, was the theme during the recent successful Inaugural Recognition Day for the Refinery Engineering Support Division (RESD) employees at Ras Tanura Refinery (RTR).

Ali Al-Hazmi, general manager of RT Refinery, was thrilled to attend what he called a "real ceremony that recognizes real achievements."

Roy DeBellefeuille, RTR Engineering manager, said: "It helps to remember the fantastic things you are all doing. You do reflect what we are trying to find in people."

The excitement and anticipation for the event had been building within RESD since the concept of a recognition program of reinforcing desired actions and behaviors was first mentioned. Uthman Al-Ghamdi, RTR Operations manager, described the RESD recognition as "genuine."

Some of the employees recognized during a first-of-its-kind ceremony held in Ras Tanura pose for a photo. The RESD event was designed to reinforce desired actions and behaviors, and all recipients were nominated by their fellow employees.

For the first time, employees were able to make their own nominations for recognition of exceptional achievement. When the day finally arrived, more than 100 employees gathered to celebrate.

This formal recognition was preceded by supervisors' informal recognition that was timely, specific and sincere.

RESD employees together created the division's 2013 focus, which is: "Solve for yesterday's problems and challenges; observe for today's performance; strategize for tomorrow."

The focus on "Solve, Observe and Strategize" resulted in 42 employees receiving recognition for their individual contributions along with the members of 13 teams. Achievements included significant savings in cost avoidance, significant revenue generation, the No. 1 inspection unit ranking company-wide, a high corporate ranking for the number of supported major projects submissions and a reduced Testing and Inspection duration of two weeks.

Fallaj Al-Utaibi, division head of RESD, concluded: "This year, I have seen true commitment and professionalism here at Ras Tanura by all of you. So, I recognize all of your hard work and dedication to advance the refinery performance. What really makes you fulfilled is finding your gift-talent contribution. What you have become makes you very happy."

Yanbu' Refinery Department bids farewell to 23 employees

YANBU' — On Dec. 17, Yanbu' Refinery Department (YRD) held a farewell party for 23 employees who retired after a total of 745 combined years of service. The party was attended by YRD manager Hussain A. Al-Qahtani, YRD leaders, and the recognized employees' family members, colleagues and friends.

During the program, every employee's respective supervisor elaborated on the employee's achievements during their service with the company. In addition, representative trophies were handed over to every employee by Al-Qahtani who in his closing remarks thanked the employees for their effort, contribution and dedication.

The recognized employees' were: Adnan A. Ambon, Saleem M. Al-Subhi, Saleh M. Al-Otaibi, Hamad A. Al-Subhi, Mohaisen A. Al-Nafee, Omar A. Ibrahim, Ateeq A. Al-Subhi, Abdullah A. Andejani, Ibrahim A. Mohammed, Abdulaziz A. Mulla, Saud A. Al-Hazmi, Ali S. Al-Ghamdi, Fahad S. Al-Subhi, Abdulaziz H. Al-Ahmadi, Masoud M. Al-Juhani, Abdulqader A. Al-Ghanmi, Ali M. Al-Shammary, Khalid Al-Harbi, Fahad Al-Qaidi, Abdulmatlub Al-Ahmadi, Mohammed Al-Raygi, Abdulkareem Al-Balawi and Fahad Al-Dhukair.

Some of the 23 retirees recently recognized by Yanbu' Refinery Department and their dependents pose with members of management during a ceremony held in Yanbu' to recognize their more than 700 years of combined service to the company.

Participants in this year's CPP fall open day pose for a photo with the trophy for the top football squad. The event, held at the Saudi Aramco beach, was designed to give students a chance to relax and compete away from the rigorous demands of daily study.

CPP open day puts emphasis on teamwork

The College Preparatory Program (CPP) fall open day was held Dec. 18 at the Saudi Aramco beach.

The annual event provides a chance for rest, relaxation and recreation away from the rigorous demands of daily study, as well as an opportunity for students and staff to mix in a non-classroom setting.

Several students and staff received door prizes, and all attendees received "Any Body Can" T-shirts, courtesy of the CPP Physical Education department. Then, the fun began.

With an emphasis on team sports, activities included six-man football, volleyball, softball and Ultimate Frisbee. Competition was friendly but fierce, especially during the perennial highlight of the day — the football tournament championship game, which was the only organized sports activity conducted after lunch. This year's "Beach Championship" went to "The Guys of 75," and, as has been the norm for the past several years, many of the players on the winning team were from Jiddah.

Additional activities included chess, dominos, sandcastle building and, in one instance, burying a classmate a meter deep in sand. Others relished the opportunity to participate in tug-of-war matches where size, rather than speed and agility, was dominant, which gave staff members a good chance of success.

At midday, students took a break from sports and recreation to enjoy a light lunch and mingle with their instructors, allowing them to strengthen relationships and exchange ideas in a comfortable and stress-free environment. The CPP open day is perhaps the most critical of the many co-curricular sports and recreation activities conducted throughout the year, as it helps to reinforce the bonds of mutual respect upon which the CPP community is built.

CPP students take part in a game of football, one of several sports featured during the recent open day. Other sports included volleyball, softball and others.

The day concluded without any injuries or complaints, except for the usual, "Why don't we do this more often?"

Abqaiq bowlers celebrate values with league, tourney

JOSELITO V. TUGANO

ABQAIQ — Fun, thrills and excitement filled al-Sa'adah Bowling Center on Jan. 16 as the Abqaiq City Bowling Association (ACBA) kicked off league play.

Opening the season with the theme "Bowling for Corporate Values," residents and dependents from Abqaiq Community signed up for the season opening tournament, which featured 11 teams.

In its efforts to support and create awareness, the ACBA tournament teams were named in line with the five corporate values of Excellence (excellence, human resources, teamwork), Safety, Accountability, Integrity (fairness and integrity, trust, stewardship) and Citizenship (citizenship, responsiveness). Team members were as follows:

EXCELLENCE: Bong Mungcal, Beng Mungcal, Raymond Lota, Ronnie Montalban and Randy Iserman.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Arnold Belardo, Ethel Corneio, Freddie Santiago, Cely Casanas and Kamanda Srinivasiah.

TEAMWORK: Darwin Gozun, Cherrie Hernandez, Art Mones, Paul Doran and Gitika Baruah.

SAFETY: Peddy Davantes, Marrise Villarete, Archie DeGuzman, Kevin Leeman and Judy Iserman.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Rick Rafael, Liz Smith, Marlyn Valde, Ina Lopez, Nilam Sonara and Manny Dejelo.

FAIRNESS: Madz Barrido, Charrie Artifice, Steff Tietze, Liza Pickles, Sally Barrid and Raji El-Jamil.

INTEGRITY: Choy Lopez, Beth Davantes, Marvin Oanes, Tim Doran and Karin Tietze.

TRUST: Terry Villarete, Josie Catalan, Chris McGrath, Cristy Oanes and Vanessa Paz.

STEWARDSHP: Johnny Bautista, Kath DeGuzman, Lito Tugano, Pradip Saha and PB Sonora.

CITIZENSHIP: Robert Catalan, Ritzie Hope, Cesar Casanas, Kim Leman and Keshab Baruah.

RESPONSIVENESS: Nestor Villaruel, Dorie Quiambao, Jerry Hernandez, Saha Kanta and Raul Paz.

The 2013 ACBA Executive Board supported the idea and concept presented by Nestor R. Villaruel, ACBA tournament director, to include in 2013 ACBA's activities the promotion of the corporate values as the guiding principle by which Saudi Aramco achieved extraordinary success. Omar Al-Ghazi, SA/CR Community Services manager, SA Oil Operations, Public Relations, Abqaiq Area Loss Prevention and Abqaiq Plants also pledged to support this endeavor to continue promoting the company values.

Steffen Tietze, 2013 ACBA president, lauded the efforts extended by all the participating team members. Villaruel announced to the participating teams the launching of the corporate values through bowling, adding that this kind of event is ACBA's own little way of spreading to the Abqaiq Community how these values support the continued success of the company.

Choy Lopez, member of the Integrity team, competes at the recent tournament held at al-Sa'adah Bowling Center in Abqaiq.

Games are played on Wednesdays, and the league will conclude after 19 sessions. Ric Rafael, league president, directs the overall activities of the tournament.

Movies

DHAHRAN

THINK LIKE A MAN, starring Chris Brown, Gabrielle Union (comedy, PG-13) – Jan. 30 and Feb. 1, 8 p.m.; Jan. 31, 5:30 p.m.

THE AVENGERS, starring Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans (fantasy, PG-13) – Jan. 30 and Feb. 1, 5 p.m.; Jan. 31 8 p.m.

WRECK IT RALPH, (animated, subtitled, PG) – Feb. 2, 5:30 p.m.; Feb. 3, 8 p.m.

SKYFALL, starring Daniel Craig, Javier Bardem (adventure, PG-13) – Feb. 2, 8 p.m.; Feb. 6, 5:30 p.m.

DABANNG 2, starring Salman Khan, Kareena Kapoor (Hindi comedy, PG-13) – Feb. 3, 5:30 p.m.

TOTAL RECALL, starring Colin Farrell (sci-fi, PG-13) – Feb. 6, 8 p.m.

ABQAIQ

THE WATCH, starring Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn (comedy, R) – Jan. 30, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: DOG DAYS, starring Zachary Gordon (family, PG) – Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD, starring Quvenzhane Walli (drama, PG-13) – Feb. 2 and 6, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

JACK AND JILL, starring Adam Sandler (comedy, PG) – Feb. 3, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

'UDHAILIYAH

OMAR WA SALMA 3, (Arabic romance, PG-13) – Jan. 31, 5 p.m.

JAB TAKH HAI JAAN, starring Shah Rukh Khan, Katrina Kaif (Hindi romance, PG-13) – Jan. 30, 8 p.m.; Feb. 1, 8 p.m.

MADAGASCAR 3, (animated, PG) – Jan. 30 and Feb. 1, 5 p.m.; Jan. 31, 8 p.m.

ARBITRAGE, starring Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon (thriller, R) – Feb. 2, 5 p.m.; Feb. 6, 8 p.m.

SEARCHING FOR SUGAR MAN, starring Rodriguez (documentary, PG-13) – Feb. 2, 8 p.m.; Feb. 6, 5 p.m.

THE ARTIST, starring Jean Dujardin (romance, PG-13) – Feb. 3, 5 and 8 p.m.

NAJMA

BRAVE, (animated, PG) – Jan. 30, 4:45 p.m.

WRECK IT RALPH, (animated, Arabic subtitle, PG) – Jan. 30 and Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.; Jan. 31, 4:45 p.m.

THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL, starring Judi Dench, (comedy, PG-13) – Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 1, 4:45 p.m.

THE WATCH, starring Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn (comedy, R) – Feb. 2, 4:45 p.m.; Feb. 6, 4:45 and 7:30 p.m.

JAB TAKH HAI JAAN, (Hindi romance, PG-13) – Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m.

OMAR WA SALMA 3, (Arabic romance, PG-13) – Feb. 3, 4:45 p.m.

GONE, starring Amanda Seyfried (mystery, PG-13) – Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m.

Photographic Memory

Photo: Thomas F. Walters

Cats long enjoyed a special place of honor at Saudi Aramco. This was certainly true for T.V. "Vic" and Gladys Champion Stapleton, who spent much of Vic's career in Ras Tanura. In this March 17, 1955, photo, the Stapletons were honored at a Hamilton House retirement party that featured ice sculptures of at least two of their beloved cats. Six days later, Vic and Gladys boarded the famous "Flying Camel" home to Dallas, Texas. Stapleton, a member of top leadership in the company, was considered one of the driving forces behind the building of the Ras Tanura Refinery.

Sudoku

Easy

Each row, column and 3-by-3 square must contain only one of each digit, from 1-9.

			1					2
		7	9	5		8		
3	9							4
	7	3		8	9			
		5				2		
			7	2		3	8	
5							6	3
		1		4	3	7		
7					8			

Last week's answer

2	4	5	9	3	6	7	8	1
3	6	1	7	8	5	2	9	4
9	7	8	1	2	4	5	3	6
6	1	4	2	7	8	3	5	9
7	5	9	4	6	3	1	2	8
8	3	2	5	9	1	4	6	7
5	8	6	3	1	7	9	4	2
4	2	7	8	5	9	6	1	3
1	9	3	6	4	2	8	7	5

(C) yoogi.com

Crossword answer

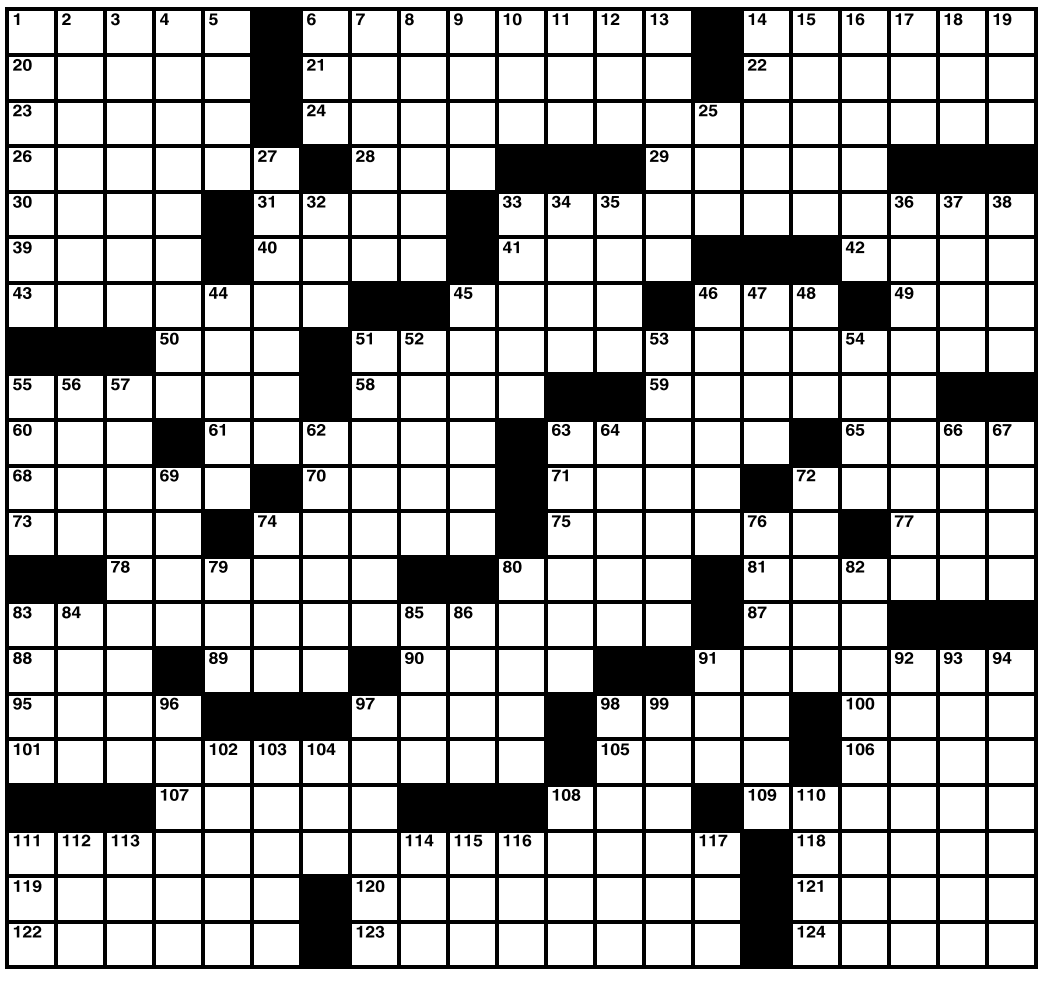
L	A	M	O	T	T	A		M	A	S	A	D	A		I	S	I	T	M	E
A	M	A	T	E	U	R		I	N	T	R	O	S		N	O	S	O	A	P
C	O	S	T	N	E	R		A	T	O	U	C	H	O	F	C	L	A	S	H
E	C	H	O			A	B	S	O	R	B		E	N	O	L	A			
D	O	H		I	N	S	O	M	N	I	A	C		T	R	E	M	O	R	S
		Y	A	L	E		R	A	Y	E		I	M	A	C		A	L	I	A
P	A	S	S	E	S	O	N			S	T	R	I	P	E	D	B	A	S	H
E	F	T	S		S	T	E	E	L		O	C	T			R	A	V	E	L
P	L	E	A	D		T	O	B	A	G	O		T	O	N	E	D			
P	A	R	I	A	H			A	M	A	T		E	N	T	S		B	A	G
E	M	I		M	E	S	H	Y	B	U	S	I	N	E	S	S		R	U	R
R	E	A		P	E	R	I		A	G	I	O			B	U	T	A	N	E
			P	I	L	O	T		S	E	E	N	A	S		P	A	S	T	E
E	A	V	E	S			M	E	T		S	A	T	E	D		C	H	I	N
S	W	I	S	H	C	H	A	L	E	T			T	W	O	T	I	M	E	S
A	N	E	T		R	A	N	K		A	L	O	U		K	A	T	O		
U	S	T	I	N	O	V		S	C	R	O	U	N	G	E	D		N	S	F
			C	A	N	O	N		A	P	O	G	E	E			S	K	I	L
P	O	L	I	T	I	C	A	L	B	O	S	H		N	O	N	H	E	R	O
D	E	E	D	E	E		T	E	L	N	E	T		R	I	B	E	Y	E	S
A	R	N	E	S	S		O	D	E	S	S	A		E	L	A	P	S	E	S

Crossword

"WI-FI INTERFERENCE"
By JOHN R. CONRAD

ACROSS
1 Cram
6 "Forget it, I'm just ranting"
14 Rub
20 Nobelist Curie
21 Finely worked fabrics
22 Daytime TV fare
23 Slant
24 Angler's daydream?
26 Adler of the stage
28 __ Tomé
29 Rial spender
30 Door fastener
31 N, in many org. names
33 Participate in a food fight?
39 Ending with switch
40 Second: Abbr.
41 Amount to make do with
42 Have a party, say
43 Implemented, as an idea
45 Subatomic particle
46 Hot thing on a horse?
49 '90s Indian prime minister
50 Jawbreaker rock genre
51 Ophthalmologist's diagnosis?
55 Guru's residence
58 Dotted line, at times: Abbr.
59 Delights
60 Pacific Coast, e.g.: Abbr.
61 Whirl
63 How author Charles Reade is named?
65 Cardinal
68 Sneak
70 Yeses, to Yves
71 Corporate identifier
72 Bite __
73 Shrek, e.g.
74 Vaughan Williams contemporary
75 Kowalski portrayer
77 Enforcers, with "the"
78 Amplified
80 "The X-Files" org.
81 Compensate for
83 Auto design now, vis-à-vis the 1950s?
87 "__ the fields ..."
88 Ranch ending
89 Verb addition?
90 Salacious stuff
91 It's tapped to make syrup
95 Natural successor
97 Go over hastily
98 Kick (out)
100 Jennifer of "Pride and Prejudice" (1995)
101 Offshore WBA venue?
105 Bit
106 Minnesota __
107 Way through a fence
108 Apple for the teacher?
109 __ training
111 Round up a passel of stoolies?
118 Loud noise
119 Dance in 3/4 time
120 Aromatic
121 "__ Nothin'": "Oklahoma!" song
122 Main road
123 Evaluated
124 Twosomes

DOWN
1 Lollapalooza
2 Clarion blast
3 Pushes
4 Bulldozer specification?
5 React emotionally to
6 Pugilists' org.
7 Mill inputs
8 Dietary restriction
9 Figura de __: Spanish ice skater's move
10 Churchill's "so few": Abbr.
11 End of a dean's address
12 Brooks of "The Producers"
13 Bars at the bar
14 Mongolian, e.g.
15 "__ chance, Monsieur!"
16 Debonair
17 Bee: Pref.
18 Animal house
19 0.0000001 joules
25 Med. care provider
27 Gray area?
32 __ Wednesday
33 Lightweight news story, say
34 First of 13 popes
35 "__ It Romantic?"
36 Roman war galley features
37 Witness's words
38 Classic Pontiacs
44 Candidate's concern
45 Least palpable, as a touch
46 Expose
47 Words to an old chap
48 L.A. hours
51 Shoulder ornament
52 Nepalese legends
53 Bottom line
54 Fictional captain who is the son of a raja
55 "Gotcha!"
56 Draft
57 Swift watercraft
62 Novice
63 Even though
64 Brazil's __ Alegre
66 "Dies __": hymn
67 Small salamander
69 Director Riefenstahl
72 Like some credit cards
74 Blow off steam
76 Unassertive sort
79 6 on a handset
80 Fall on the set, perhaps
82 Unrestrained Kentucky Derby entrant?
83 Dr. Pepper Snapple Group brand
84 Blast furnace input
85 Its academy is in New London, Conn.
86 Asian nursemaid
91 "Tsk!"
92 Clinton cabinet member Donna
93 Didn't leave alone
94 Troubles
96 Get out of trouble
97 Communications word after Romeo
98 Sawyer and Keaton
99 Coach of Notre Dame's "Four Horsemen"
102 Additional
103 Grant's bill
104 "Alice" waitress
108 Wire measures
110 O.T. book after Amos
111 Nashville based awards org.
112 Go public with
113 Big bang cause
114 French possessive
115 Cloth meas.
116 Them, often
117 Criterion: Abbr.



Stanford Club of Saudi Arabia officially launched

Led by two Saudi Aramco employees, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Mojel from Corporate Planning and Saad Al-Gheriri from Treasury, The Stanford Club of Saudi Arabia conducted its inaugural event Jan. 6 at a Riyadh hotel.

Guests of honor included HE Dr. Fahad Balghunaim, Minister of Agriculture of Saudi Arabia, and Dr. John Etchemendy, Provost of Stanford University. More than 70 alumni from multiple regions in Saudi Arabia attended the event, and with the collaboration from the university, the club was able to reach out to more than 150 alums in the Kingdom.

The club was formed to achieve three main objectives:

■ To provide members of the club with opportunities for personal and professional development through hosting intellectual events and other developmental activities.

■ To foster and strengthen relationships and interaction among Stanford alumni.

■ To reinforce the link between alumni and Stanford University and promote collaboration between Saudi institutions and Stanford.

The program started with Saad Al-Gheriri, vice president of Stanford Club of Saudi Arabia, welcoming and thanking the attendees for their support, giving an overview of the program, and introducing the guests of honor. Then, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Mojel, club president, reviewed the club's structure, initiatives and the plan going forward.

Afterward, Etchemendy talked about Stanford's strong ties to Saudi Arabia since the early days of oil exploration when oil was first discovered by Max Steineke, who was a graduate of Stanford University.

The last portion of the event was an open discussion when Balghunaim introduced a topic of national and global interest: food security and investment in agriculture. Attendees had the opportunity to discuss the topic with HE the Minister and fellow alums.

■ Posing for photos at the inaugural meeting of the Stanford Club of Saudi Arabia are, from left, HE Dr. Fahad Balghunaim (Minister of Agriculture), Provost John Etchemendy, Saad Al-Gheriri and Ibrahim Al-Mojel.

The Stanford Club of Saudi Arabia can be reached through its official email *saudi@alumni.stanford.edu.*

Bulletin Board

Dhahran Oasis Quilt Guild: The program for this week is the "Middle Eastern Memory Quilt." There will be an open exchange of ideas on the content of the quilt. If you are a quilter or are interested in learning the art of quilting, visit the quilt house on Mondays from 1-3 p.m. or Tuesdays from 5:30-7 p.m. All skill levels are welcome. For more info, email *doqgclasses@hotmail.com*.

Community Education Courses: The Office of Community Education announces that winter session courses are underway through March 28. These courses offer a wide variety of academic, recreational and other interests. Employees may register themselves and their dependents who meet Eligibility Requirements online at our website, or from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays through Wednesdays at the Community Education Office (Room 145, Building 224). For more info or help, call 877-1688. Prospective teachers are invited to contact Mark Finanger. For more info, visit *http://sas.aramco.com.sa/sas/sas/contentAction.do?name=comm_ed_home*.

Boy Scouts Annual Pancake Breakfast: Come support Dhahran Boy Scouts Troop 1 while enjoying a pancake breakfast with family and friends in your community. Thursday, Feb. 7 from 7–11 a.m. at al-Waha North. Tickets are available from any Boy Scout starting Jan. 6 or at the door on the day of the event: SR20 for single or SR50 for family. For more information, email *Cignoli@hotmail.com.*

Dhahran Toastmasters: Become a more effective leader and communicator. Attend a meeting of the Dhahran Toastmasters Club to learn more about how to transform into a more confident leader. Every Tuesday, 6:15-8:15 p.m. at Building 1007 on 10th Street near ad-Diwan. Call Rosalinda at 050-387-3490. For more info, visit *http://shark/cops/Toastmasters/dtc.*

Dhahran Poetry Group (DPG): Join the DPG for a memorable Annual Poetry Evening at 6:30 p.m. on March 14 at ad-Diwan in Dhahran for a fine selection of English, Arabic and Urdu/Hindi poetry. World-renowned poets Dr. Popular Meeruthi, Waseem Barelvi and Dr. Rahat Indori will recite Hindi poetry. Syed Salman Gilani and Khalid Masood Khan from Pakistan will present one hour of nonstop humorous poetry. Fee is SR75 and includes refreshments. For seat reservations, email *DhahranPoetryGroup@gmail.com* or call Adil Mustafa at 055-751-5178. For more info, please visit *www.dpg4u.com*.

Ghazal Night and Dinner: Join us for a night of Ghazal poetry on Thursday, Jan. 31 at 6 p.m. in the ad-Diwan Building in Dhahran. Also performing will be international performers Mohammed Vakil (playback singer in Yash Chopra's "Veer Zara" and winner of Zee TV Sa Re Ga Ma Indian musical show); Asfaq Deewan on Harmonium; and Gulam Gosh at Tabla. For info on tickets, contact Rafiq Khurshid at 050-940-5956 or by email at *rafiq.khurshid@aramco.com*.

Women's Groups

Dhahran Women's Group (DWG): Doors open for morning programs at 8:30 a.m. with presentations at 9 a.m.; doors open for afternoon programs at 5:30 p.m. with presentations at 6 p.m. Feb. 4 — (Morning) **Wake Up with Make Up:** Learn about permanent make up from professional permanent make-up artist Iro Smith. Feb. 11 — (Morning) **Trip to Tavola:** A shopping morning at the Tavola store in al-Khobar for kitchen, baking needs and more. Snack and refreshments provided; bus leaves at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 12. — (Evening) **Yoga Workshop:** Come learn the benefits of yoga with certified instructor Audrey Paar. Feb. 18 — (Morning) **Patchi Chocolate:** Join the fun with Patchi gourmet chocolate. Learn about Patchi's facilities, chocolate and taste some of their signature pieces. Feb. 25 — (Morning) **Meet the Artist:** Come meet fine artist Sana Naveed as she presents her style of unique art, fabric collages and talks about the cultural and historical aspect behind them, as well as the technique used. Baby-sitting provided for SR10 per child.

Sports

The XXVIII Half Marathon + Relay will be Feb. 22. Registration at 6:15 a.m. for 7 a.m. race start at Third Street Track. Fee: SR15 for members; SR30 for nonmembers. Enter as individuals or as a team (limit four per team). Top finishers plus age division medals will be awarded. Individual runners earn a certificate; all runners receive a giveaway! Post-race healthy refreshments will be available. The race is open to all Saudi Aramco employees and dependents eligible to use 11+ facilities. For more info, email *olwen.kelly@aramco.com* or call 876-5727.

Dhahran Tai Chi Group: Evening Beginner's class Feb. 9-26, Saturdays and Tuesdays, 5-6:30 p.m., al-Waha South. Fee: SR180. Email *dhahrantaichi@yahoo.com* for complete details and to register.

Medical/SAMSO

To comment on this information, issued by Medical, employees can email *SamsoWebmaster@Exchange.Aramco.com.sa.* Dependents and retirees should email *Jacqueline.Mullen@aramco.com*.

Medical Designated Facilities Department (MDFD) Registered Patients: A new service from Medical Customer Service Network (MCSN): "Urgent Health Care Access Help Line" at 055-600-0468 has been introduced and is available after 4 p.m. for urgent health care matters that are life threatening. When an issue is not urgent, use the MCSN standard telephone numbers listed in this bulletin under News > MCSN.

SAMSO Registered Patients: SMS reminder system for medical and dental appointments is not working so please keep track of your appointments. Make, cancel and reschedule appointments and request prescription refills in the following manner. **Dependents:** For medical appointments, prescription refills and assistance, call the Outpatient Appointment Services: Abqaiq Clinic, 574-6666; al-Hasa Clinic, 577-2555; Dhahran Health Center, 877-3888; Ras Tanura Clinic, 678-4433; 'Udhailiyah, 577-8232. For dental appointments, call the Dental Call Center: Abqaiq, 574-7150; al-Hasa, 574-7150; Dhahran, 877-8088; Ras Tanura, 678-4818, 'Udhailiyah, 577-7120. SMS reminders for appointments is not working, so keep track of your appointments. **Release of medical information:** To obtain a medical summary, copy of medical records, X-rays, tests, etc., dependents may enquire at the Liaison Office: Abqaiq Building 265, Room G1-04, 574-6539; al-Hasa Building, Room 1306, 577-2838; Dhahran Room 0-005, Building 60, Dhahran Health Center, 877-3927; Ras Tanura Building 1, Room 566-B, 678-4440.

Employees: To schedule an appointment or view an existing appointment, request a prescription refill, change your medical provider, request an immunization record or Blood Group Certificate, go to the myhome Corporate Portal *http://myhome* > myInformation > Medical. Specialist appointments can be made by calling Outpatient Appointment Services (see above for telephone numbers). Request a dental appointment online *http://samso* > A-Z Services > Dental. Keep track of your appointments by checking *http://myhome* > myInformation > Medical. **Release of medical information:** To obtain a medical summary, copy of medical records, X-rays, tests, etc., apply online at *http://myhome* > myInformation > Medical > Release of Medical Information. **Employees** visit the Calendar of SAMSO Events *http://samso* > Health Education > Calendar of SAMSO Events > Campaigns / Lectures and Webinars / Programs for more information on our activities.

Campaigns and Conferences

Win a trip to Mada'in Saleh. Participate in wellcare's MoveWELL competition — walk, cycle, swim to mada'in Saleh. Available to employees who register on the SAMSO Website. The program began Jan. 1 and finishes April 30.

Pregnancy Wellness Program: Arabic 9-10 a.m.; English 11 a.m.-noon for Saudi Aramco employees and dependents who are 12 weeks or more into a pregnancy. Feb. 2: Breathing and Relaxation; Feb. 9: Care of the Newborn; Feb. 16: Breastfeeding and Nutrition; Feb. 23: Pre and Postpartum Exercises. Employees can register online (see the Calendar of SAMSO Events); dependents can call Eman S. Mutairi at 877-8945 or Nebeelah M. Abandi at 877-8945.

Tour the Mother and Baby Unit (3H) Dhahran Health Center to prepare for the birth of your child. Arabic and English tours are the first and third Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. Employees register on the Programs page at *http://samso*; dependents email *abboudia@aramco*.com or call Iman Abbout at 877-8734 or pager 870-5417 to register.

Programs

News: On the SAMSO Website *http://samso* > Announcements: What's New in SAMSO > Bulletin Board. Telephone contacts have been provided, where possible, for dependents and retirees.

• **Get your annual physical.** Make an appointment with your primary care physician in SAMSO or MDF facilities. SAMSO registered patients, employees; to make a physician appointment go to the myhome Corporate Portal *http://myhome* > myInformation > Medical Services. To make a dental appointment go to *http://samso* > Services >Dental. SAMSO registered dependents, to make a physician or dental appointments call the Outpatient Appointment Services and select the relevant option: Abqaiq Clinic 574-6666; al-Hasa Clinic 577-2555; Dhahran Health Center 877-3888; Ras Tanura Clinic 678-4433; 'Udhailiyah 577-8232. Employees can view the SAMSO website *http://samso* > Hospitals and Clinics Contacts > MDF for the telephone numbers of MDF.

• **Become a blood donor: It's about life!** To register call the Dhahran Health Center Blood Bank, at 877-6770 or 877-6638 during regular working hours or register online *http://samso* > A-Z Services > Blood Donation.

• **Become a volunteer:** Give your time and experience to help others. Call 877-8543 during working hours.

• **Choose or change your physician:** View the MCSN website *http://samso* > A-Z Services > MCSN, for information on what to do. If you don't have computer access, complete the paper form in the MCSN offices, in Dhahran Primary Care and the Districts (see MCSN message for locations).

• **Feeling stressed?** Have psychological, emotional or social problems that you need help with? SAMSO registered patients should contact the Community Counseling Clinic (CCC) to make an appointment at 877-8400/8431 during regular working hours. MDF registered patients please contact your MDF. Employees can visit *http://samso* > A-Z Services > Mental Health for more information.

• **MCSN: Medical Customer Service Network** provides multilingual staff to assist Saudi Aramco Healthcare Network registered and SAMSO registered patients with their health care related concerns and issues. Patients who are unable to find a resolution through normal channels may contact MCSN. Employees can register a concern online at *http://samso* > Offer Appreciation/Concern. Dependents can fax their questions to 877-6111 for all locations, or call 03-877-6110 for Dhahran, Dammam, al-Khobar, Qatif and Ras Tanura; 03-572-8555 for Abqaiq; 03-577-7770 for al-Hasa and 'Udhailiyah; 03-378-6000 for Tanajib; 01-285-3301 for Riyadh/Central Region; 02-427-2333 for Jiddah/Western Region; 04-397-7600 for Yanbu'; 04-432-0051 ext. 2333 for Duba; 07-321-1594 ext. 2333 for Jazan; 07-544-1448 ext. 2333 for Najran. You may also come and to speak to us at the MCSN Drop-in Office hours of operation: Dhahran Health Center from 7 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday to Wednesday; EMS, 24 hours seven days a week; Abqaiq Outpatient Clinics from 7 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday to Wednesday; al-Hasa Health Center Outpatient Clinics from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saturday to Wednesday; Ras Tanura Outpatient Clinics from 7 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday to Wednesday; MCSN in Medical Designated Facilities Hospitals from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saturday to Wednesday.

SAEA

SAEA is selling 4GB - USB pens, they make great gifts! Also, the new T-shirts have arrived. Come to the office and check them out. Tickets currently on sale for: Coach to Bahrain's Center every Sunday and Thursday. An Evening at the Movies, Al-Rashid Mall Entertainment Center, Sparky's Entertainment Center, Abcarino – Mall of Dhahran. Tickets are on sale now for the following: Wahoo Water Park at Bahrain's City Center; Western Cultural Evening, Feb. 14 at ad-Diwan. For more info, call the SAEA office at 872-0117. Ticket sale time at the SAEA office is from Saturday to Wednesday, 3-5 p.m. SAEA is at 1424 King's Road or *http://sharek/orgs/30002961/Self%20Directed%20Group/Documents/Dhahran/Special%20Interest%20Groups/SAEA/dateline.pdf* for updated events newsletter.

SAEA elections

The Saudi Aramco Employees Association — Dhahran Chapter recently announced the results of the election of its 2013 Board of Directors. The nominations were received, unopposed.

President: Mohammad A. (Nauman) Waheed.
Vice president: Mazen Al-Ajmi.
Secretary: David Churches.
Treasurer: John Sabin.

SA LIFE

Inside this issue

Bowling for Values

Bowlers in Abqaiq are combining their love for the lanes with their dedication to company values.

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Readers Album

Fireworks light up Dubai

Najmul Ansari took this colorful photo from the Burj Khalifah in Dubai as the clock struck midnight this past Jan. 1. Ansari, who was on vacation in Dubai, used his Canon 6D with EF 70-200mm f/2.8L IS II lens to capture the image. Ansari, who lives and works in Dhahran, is a petroleum engineering systems specialist in the Petroleum Engineering Applications Services Department. He has worked for the company for more than 10 years.

The Write Stuff

11-year-old Aramcon brings his 'Super Secret Spy Agency' story to the world

NATASHA BURGE

DHAHRAN — Eleven-year-old Henry Acevedo has just made a big splash in the publishing world by releasing his first ever book, "The Super Secret Spy Agency." The book was published by Xlibris and features the adventures of twin brothers Jack and Jason Stevenson, two young spies who unravel mysteries while balancing schoolwork and family responsibilities.

Henry's knack for storytelling emerged at an early age. "When he was very young he would draw pictures to tell his stories, but as he got older he began to write and hasn't stopped," Henry's mother, Lucienne, said. "We have boxes and boxes of stories that he has written since that time."

In the summer of 2012, Henry asked his mother if she would set up a blog for him so he could share his stories more widely. His mother agreed, and the blog launched, spreading Henry's "Super Secret Spy Agency" around the world. In September, Henry's dreams came true when a publisher from Australia called with big plans for his spy series. "She was so excited about the book and thought other children would enjoy reading it," Lucienne said.

Henry remembers when his parents told him that his book was going to be published. "I was so happy because I was finally going to make other kids happy. I couldn't wait for them to read my book," Henry said.

Henry's father, Henry Alexander Acevedo, a petroleum engineer, recalls the moment when the family learned the good news. "It was very exciting. We all wanted him to accomplish his dreams and it was finally happening," he said.

The plot of "The Super Secret Spy Agency" is centered on the twins Jack and Jason, and follows them throughout their childhood as they receive a new spy assignment every year. Henry hopes the book will be a hit with other children. "I think kids will like my book because it is full of suspense. You will never know what is going to happen next," Henry said.

When asked where he got the inspiration for the plot of "The Super Secret Spy Agency," Henry explained: "I was visiting my grandparents in Houston, Texas, and my cousin and I played a game where we pretended to be spies. We would spy on my grandfather. When I left, I wished I could keep playing the game, so I decided to write a story about spies."

Henry Acevedo

Henry has already begun work on "The Super Secret Spy Agency 2," which he promises will be even more exciting than the first. "I always wanted to have a book published and now that it has happened I feel very happy, but it makes me want to write more books. I started working on the second part of the Super Secret Spy Agency, and I feel that I learned from the first book and can make it better each time," Henry said.

On Feb. 6 at 5 p.m., the budding author will be reading from his book at the Dhahran Library, as well as holding an author question-and-answer session and offering copies of his book for sale. Henry is looking forward to the event so he can share his excitement and love of reading and writing with his friends and fellow children.

Henry says he plans to become an author when he is older so he can continue sharing his stories with the world. "Writing is my favorite thing to do. My dream is to make other kids as happy as I am when I read books," he said.